

Rebecca Buck

From: Jane Kitchel <janek45@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 9:00 AM
To: Rebecca Buck
Cc: Jeanette White
Subject: FW: Consolidation of PSAP

Please forward to committee members.

Date: Mon, 16 Feb 2015 22:27:40 +0000
From: tjc222@comcast.net
To: janek45@hotmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Consolidation of PSAP

Dear Sen. Kitchellar

I am forwarding you this email at the behest of Sen. Illuzzi and I strongly believe that this matter warrants full hearings by the house and or senate before any action is taken. Please take a moment of your valuable time to review my concerns below.

Thank you
Tom Crowe

From: "Vince Illuzzi" <vincentilluzzi@hotmail.com>
To: tjc222@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2015 9:14:21 PM
Subject: RE: Consolidation of PSAP

Thanks very much.

I request you send a direct email to Sen. Jane Kitchell, chair of Senate Appropriations Committee. janek45@hotmail.com

Thanks.

Date: Mon, 16 Feb 2015 02:09:24 +0000
From: tjc222@comcast.net
To: vincentilluzzi@hotmail.com
Subject: Consolidation of PSAP

Sir:

The following letter has been sent to Sen. Sears and Rep Morrissey of Bennington along with the Governor.

It is my understanding that the governor intends to close/move the PSAP 911 dispatch center in Rutland and transfer said service to Rockingham. Speaking from a... great amount of experience with

both dispatch centers I can attest that this move will do nothing to improve and will only hinder dispatch services in Bennington county.

I have served in law enforcement and rescue service in Bennington County for over 42 years and have personal experience in dealing with trying to reach the Rutland and Rockingham PSAP's during regular storms and times of peak activity. The present workload for these dispatchers cannot be known to whom ever thought this was a good idea. During a normal winter storm I have seen dispatchers overwhelmed so much so that calls for service a having to be held. Doubling the calls for service is an insane idea.

These dispatchers are trying to keep up and are doing their best during emergencies but I have had to fall back on the Rutland dispatch center to send teletype or phone messages to Rockingham just to get through to them. The Bennington/Rutland/Windsor county service area has many areas that cannot always be reached by officers using cruiser radios not to mention portable radios if they are away from their cars. This situation will only get worse trying to reach Rockingham alone. At lease with both centers operational officers can try option to go through an alternate center. This will not happen if Rutland is closed and then next PSAP is in Williston.

From a personal point I am sure that when I had my crash a few years back if Rockingham was the only PSAP I would have laid in my demolished truck for a long time before traffic picked up and I was found. Fortunately for me the dispatcher, on duty in Rutland, Anne Masse heard my voice on my portable radio, knew my voice and realized something was wrong. She recalled my normal route home from past experience and was able to dispatch VSP, Arlington Fire and Rescue and other units to my location and assist me. These dispatchers know the areas and families so well they can expedite services based on their experience and knowledge of the service area. Case in point the Irene flooding on Rte. 7 in Clarendon when two workers were saved by dispatch knowing NYSP helicopters were available and calling them in. This cannot happen when you are running a consolidated PSAP based on numbers of calls and vast areas of responsibilities.

In closing I am hoping that you and our legislators can convince the responsible parties that this plan will cost someone their life for the sake of "saving" a few dollars. This is a knee jerk reaction to a problem of their own making. What if the governor is the person who is in need and his driver is the one who cannot reach a dispatch center. This happened with Gov. Dean when I was on duty once and thank goodness the Rutland/Shafsbury dispatch center was there to assist him and his children.

Finally why is the Governor trying to rush this into place before legislative review and why is the Commissioner now saying the two PSAP's can handle the load when in the past he stated the four PSAP's are working at max capacity. These cuts will get someone hurt or worse!

Tom Crowe, Sgt (ret.) Winhall PD
Bennington